

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application)	PATENT APPLICATION
)	
Inventor(s):	James F. Zucherman)
	Ken Y. Hsu)
	T. Wade Fallin)
	Henry A. Klyce)
)
SC/Serial No.:	Unknown)
)
Filed:	Herewith)
)
Title:	SPINE DISTRACTION IMPLANT AND METHOD)
)

Customer No. 23910

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Matthew A. Mahling _____ (Signature)
Matthew A. Mahling _____ (Name)
Signature Date: October 5, 2000

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TO CONTINUATION APPLICATION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b)(1)**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of the above-referenced continuation case, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend the following claims as indicated below. Please cancel claim 1 and add the new claims set forth below. All pending claims are included for completeness.

B/S 90. (New) An improved method for stabilizing a spinous process relative to another